fare hike alleged' appearing in the Indian Express dated June 27, 1991; and

(b) if so, the corrective measures being taken for the convenience of the passengers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The corrective measures being taken for the convenience of the passengers are :—

(i) The fare charges are displayed at prominent places near the booths;

(ii) Prompt action is taken against any complaint received;

(iii) To ensure accuracy and reliability, the system is now being computerised;

(iv) The Delhi Police are dropping the Zone system and the system of colony distance is being introduced;

(v) The pre-paid booths are being equipped with :

(a) Public announcements system;

(b) TV with teletext facility.

(vi) All pre-paid booths are proposed to be linked with MTNL net-work to ensure payment of voucher issued at one booth at any other booth in the city.

Suspension of Voluntary Retirement Scheme by S.T.C.

*116. SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Trading Corporation has decided to suspend the voluntary retirement scheme and to retrench the surplus staff;

(b) whether any assessment has been made of the surplus staff at the level of officers and staff; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) STC has temporarily suspended the Voluntary Retirement Scheme.

(b) and (c) STC has commissioned the National Productivity Council to conduct a study to identify the extent and nature of surplus staff.

[*Translation*]

Disbursement of Loans for Purchase of essential Commodities

*117. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of loans advanced by the public sector banks and other public financial institutions for the purchase of various essential commodities during the last three years and the estimated amount proposed to be advanced during the current year;

(b) whether there is any proposal to discontinue the advancing of loans